



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) Star-shaped conveyor for transporting or taking out empty plastics containers or bottles to or from a machine of a type comprising a plurality of indentations (4) uniformly distributed along the periphery of two spaced apart plates (2 and 3), characterized by the fact vacuum is provided in each indentation capable of holding the empty bottle tightly against the indentation surface for a predetermined circumferential arc.

2. (original) Star-shaped conveyor according to claim 1 characterized by the fact each indentation is provided with a box element supported by the lower plate (2) defining openings (11), the number of openings (11) being equal to the number of indentations, openings (11) are arranged along a circumference overlaying a slot (12) defined on a cylindrical chamber (14) in which vacuum is created, each box element has a vertical opening (9) made in one (10) of its faces which follows the curvilinear profile of the indentation.

3. (previously presented) Star-shaped conveyor according to claim 2, characterized by the fact the slot (12) extends along an arc comprised between  $90^{\circ}$  and  $180^{\circ}$  starting from the discharge of an operative machine to the inlet of a conveyor for transporting bottles.

4. (original) Machine for aligning and orienting plastics bottles of a type comprising a star-shaped conveyor located at the discharge for taking out the bottles and provided with a plurality of indentations uniformly arranged along the periphery of two spaced apart plates, characterized by the fact vacuum is provided in each indentation capable of holding and transporting the empty bottle tightly against the indentation surface for a predetermined circumferential arc.

5. (original) Machine according to claim 4, characterized by the fact that the star-shaped conveyor is driven by the same driving means of the aligning and orienting machine.

6. (original) Machine according to claim 4, characterized by the fact the star-shaped conveyor has its own driving means independent from the machine driving means.

7. (new) Machine according to claim 4, further characterized by the fact each indentation is provided with a box

element supported by the lower plate (2) defining openings (11), the number of openings (11) being equal to the number of indentations, openings (11) are arranged along a circumference overlaying a slot (12) defined on a cylindrical chamber (14) in which vacuum is created, each box element has a vertical opening (9) made in one (10) of its faces which follows the curvilinear profile of the indentation.

8. (new) Star-shaped conveyor according to claim 1, characterized by the fact each indentation defines a vacuum opening (9) made in the indentation surface.

9. (new) Machine according to claim 4, characterized by the fact each indentation defines a vacuum opening (9) made in the indentation surface.

10. (new) Star-shaped conveyor, comprising  
two spaced apart plates (2, 3);  
a plurality of indentations (4) uniformly distributed along a periphery of two spaced apart plates, each indentation having an indentation surface defining a curvilinear profile for holding an empty bottle;

vacuum provided to each indentation, the vacuum sized to hold the empty bottle tightly against the indentation surface for a predetermined circumferential arc;

a box element associated each indentation, each box element supported by the lower plate and defining an opening (11), the number of openings (11) being equal to the number of indentations, a face of each box following the curvilinear profile;

a cylindrical chamber (14) in which the vacuum is created;

a vertical opening (9) within the face of each box that follows the curvilinear profile; and

a slot (12) the cylindrical chamber (14), wherein,  
the openings (11) are arranged along a circumference overlaying the slot (12).

11. (new) The Star-shaped conveyor of claim 10, wherein, the slot (12) extends along an arc comprised between  $90^{\circ}$  and  $180^{\circ}$ .

12. (new) The Star-shaped conveyor of claim 11, wherein, the slot extends from a discharge of an operative machine to an inlet of a conveyor for transporting bottles.